

# CARTSNEWS

*The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society*

ISSUE #31

August 2011

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**G**reetings to all CARTS members:

I greet you in August 2011 with a message similar to August 2010's President's Message. Negotiations with our sister token club, the Southeastern Token Society, have proved fruitful again this year and CARTS will be hosting another joint meeting with SETS on November 12th. The meeting will be held at the same location – the Super 8 Motel at Villa Rica, Georgia (exit 24, I-20). Hours for the meeting will be 8 AM to 12 noon. A block of rooms will be held at the Super 8 until a week before the meeting. Rates are \$59.99 per double. Please mention the Carolina Token Society when calling to make a reservation. The phone number at the Super 8 is (770-459-8000). The street address is 128 Hwy 61 Connector, Villa Rica, GA 30180. The email address is: [super8villarica@mindspring.com](mailto:super8villarica@mindspring.com).

Last year's meeting was very well attended and there were more tokens for sale than you could shake a stick at. We had close to 20 collectors there last November, and we hope to have more this year. I plan to give another PowerPoint presentation and we will probably also have some door prizes.

Please make your plans to attend this meeting. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet other token collectors and perhaps add some tokens to your collection.

Regards,  
Tony Chibbaro  
President, Carolina Token Society

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**W**hat a great meeting we had in May! As usual there were tokens, tokens and more tokens. If you've yet to attend a CARTS meeting you really don't know what you are missing.

In addition to planning to meet with SETS once again in November, two important items of business were acted on. First, it was decided that in future, at each meeting, a vote will be taken on acceptance of those person who have applied for membership since the previous meeting. This is an action consistent with our sister organizations. Second, at the spring meeting—to be held again just west of Winston-Salem—there will be a fund raising auction. Donations are solicited anytime prior to that meeting. Treasurer Bob King reports that effective the end of June funds on hand were \$774.82.

Finally, we solicit your thoughts on electronic distribution of CARTSNEWS. Would you like that or dislike that? Are you neutral on the question? Any feedback may be directed to president Tony Chibbaro, or to editor Don Bailey.

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!  
**Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!**

# UNION

## SOUTH CAROLINA WANTED

### POSTCARDS, TOKENS, PAPER MONEY

**William M. Graham**  
**106 Hidden Hill Road Union, SC 29379-9105**  
**864-427-9560**    [wmg1260@gmail.com](mailto:wmg1260@gmail.com)

#### New Finds from South Carolina

**Tony Chibbaro**

It is not often that one encounters two unlisted merchant tokens from the same town within a number of days, but that is exactly what happened to me since the last issue of CARTSNEWS was printed. The tokens are from the picturesque Lowcountry village of Beaufort and the merchants are two from which exonomic output was previously unknown.



**L.M. Rountree, 5¢ token, brass, 32mm x 20mm, incuse & uniface**

The first token, pictured above, came my way courtesy of a relic hunter from Georgia. He had been metal detecting in the area of Port Royal, SC, about 5 miles south of Beaufort. The token was struck on a 32mm by 20mm rectangular brass planchet with incuse lettering on the obverse. The reverse is blank. Issued by L.M. Rountree circa 1898, the token is presently the only one known from this merchant.

The firm of F.L. Rountree & Co. appeared in an 1896 mercantile directory as operating a general store in Beaufort. The company was listed only for that single year. In 1898, L.M. Rountree then appeared in the directories. He was shown in three succeeding years, but had disappeared by 1902. He was listed as a grocer for the years, 1898, 1900 and 1901, and as a general store owner for the year 1899. Additionally, the 1899 directory had his full name as Linwood M. Rountree. The 1900 U.S. Census, however, listed only a Luther as the sole Rountree in the Beaufort area. Luther was shown as 45 years old, single, and working as a farmer. Searches of other years and under variant spellings of the last name provided no further information for Luther or Linwood. This conflicting directory information can prove frustrating, but such is the nature of old records from before the days of computers.



**W.R. Bristol advertising token, aluminum, 30mm**

The second unlisted token from the Beaufort area popped up on eBay a couple of weeks later. (See above.) I had never seen any tokens from this merchant either. The token was issued by W.R. Bristol, who decided to advertise his jewelry business by distributing examples of this token. The 30mm aluminum token is not a "good for" token, but carries information about Bristol's business operations on both sides. On the obverse of the token appears an inscription which

proclaims Bristol as a jeweler and optician, while the reverse mentions the repair of fine watches and sales of stationery and fancy goods.

W.R. Bristol was first listed in mercantile directories in the year 1892 and was shown for the next 24 years, always in the jewelry and stationery business. In 1917 he apparently took in a partner named L.A. Hall, as the business then became known as Bristol & Hall. The company was listed as such until 1922, when Bristol disappeared from the name of the company, which now appeared only under Hall's name. The 1900 U.S. Census gives the following information on W.R. Bristol: full name – William R. Bristol; occupation – jeweler; birthplace – Connecticut; birth date – September 1860; wife's name – Grace; son's name – Harold (born 1895). Information in the 1910 and 1920 censuses was essentially the same, although the latter showed only Bristol and his wife in the household.

## OLD DIES MATCH NEWLY DISCOVERED TOKENS

**Tony Chibbaro**

At one of our recent CARTS meetings a fellow member approached me with a group of token dies for sale. It was readily apparent that these dies had been used many years ago to strike tokens for three different South Carolina businesses. The seller told me that he had owned the dies for quite a few years, purchasing them along with several dozen others that had been used to strike tokens from all over the country. I was quite pleased to get these dies – seven in number – as I had in my collection only a single die up to that point in time. These seven dies were all obverse dies and were used to strike tokens for the following South Carolina businesses – the Hawaiian Stage Door of Columbia, the New Cabana Club of Columbia, and the Camperdown Mills Store of Greenville. I owned tokens from all of these businesses, but only one denomination of each. As there were three different dies from each of the two businesses in Columbia, I surmised that at least four of the dies were used to strike tokens which I had never seen. The three dies from the Hawaiian Stage Door and the three from the New Cabana Club were very similar in design, and each group of dies matched the other size for size. That is, each of the two groups contained one die of 27mm diameter, one die of 24mm diameter, and one die of 21mm diameter. In my collection I had 10¢

tokens from both of these businesses, and after comparing the tokens to their respective dies, I could tell that both tokens were struck from the pair of the dies that measured 21mm. It was also apparent that the four larger dies were probably used to strike tokens in larger denominations.



**Group of seven dies purchased from fellow CARTS member.**

In June of 2011 I received a call from a local coin dealer in Columbia. He wanted to know if I was interested in some Columbia area tokens from the Hawaiian Stage Door and the New Cabana Club. He related that he had purchased about 20 tokens in varying denominations from these two businesses in a collection that had passed across his counter. Immediately I remembered the dies which I had purchased earlier and was pleased that perhaps I would now match up some previously unknown tokens to these dies. Sure enough, when I examined the tokens, there were examples that had been struck by three of the dies – some 50¢ and 25¢ tokens from the Hawaiian Stage Door and a few 50¢ tokens

from the New Cabana Club. There were no 25¢ tokens from the latter business. When I returned home I found it interesting to be able to position the obverse of a token onto the face of the die and have the token fit right into the incuse design of the die.



**Hawaiian Stage Door, 50¢ token, brass, 29mm.**

The new tokens spurred me to do some research on the two Columbia businesses. I first checked to see what I had written in *South Carolina Tokens*, but nothing appeared under the listing of the single 10¢ token I had cataloged for the New Cabana Club. The only known 10¢ token from the Hawaiian Stage Door had been listed in the *First Supplement to South Carolina Tokens*, and no descriptive information had been printed there either. I came to discover that this was because both businesses had operated after World War II and I had used the end of the war as a "cutoff" date for my research prior to publishing. A search of reference material at the Richland County Library yielded information on the Hawaiian Stage Door. Apparently it was a restaurant which operated for a period of about 10 years, from 1955 through 1965. The business was located at 1219 Main Street in the block immediately north of the State Capitol Building. No matter how hard I searched I could find nothing on the New Cabana Club, no mention in phone books or city directories.



**New Cabana Club, 50¢ token, brass, 29mm.**

This lack of information on the New Cabana Club is intriguing, but I do have some speculation as to its non-existence. Since tokens from both businesses came from the same source and since all the tokens were obviously struck by the same die-sinker, I believe that the two businesses were operated by the same owners. The Hawaiian Stage Door was described in the city

directory as a restaurant, so I suspect that the New Cabana Club was the private bar associated with the restaurant. As such, it would not have needed a telephone and since it was on the same premises as the restaurant, it would not have necessitated a separate listing in the city directory.

I surmise that the tokens were used for mixed drink "set-ups". During this time period in South Carolina, one could not purchase a drink of liquor legally at any bar or restaurant in South Carolina. Distilled spirits could only be purchased by the bottle at state-controlled ABC stores. (ABC stood for Alcoholic Beverage Control.) If one wanted to have a drink at a bar or restaurant, one had to "brown-bag", that is, take a bottle into the establishment in some type of bag. Sale of liquor by the drink was not legal in the state until mini-bottles were introduced in the 1970s. Prior to that time "brown-bagging" was the only legal way to have a mixed drink at a bar or restaurant. Beer or wine could be sold, but no hard liquor. Restaurants and bars offered "set-ups" or mixers for a nominal fee for those who brought in their own booze.



**Camperdown Mills Store, 25¢ token, brass, 26mm.**

So far I haven't mentioned much about the seventh die in the group and the token which was struck from it. At first, that die-token combination didn't seem to fit with the others. The token was issued in Greenville, not Columbia, and was dated 1905. Neither the place nor the time period seemed to be related to any of the Columbia tokens until I took a closer look at the reverse of the Camperdown Mills token I had in my collection. Comparing it to the reverse of one of the 25¢ tokens from the Hawaiian Stage Door I was mildly surprised that both tokens were struck with the same reverse die. This made perfect sense if looked at from the vantage point that both tokens were made by the same die-sinker, but didn't quite make sense if they were, in fact, struck 50 years apart. Thinking about this apparent discrepancy for a little longer, and seeing that the reverses of both tokens had the same die crack across the word "for", I came to the conclusion that the Camperdown Mills tokens were probably not struck in 1905, but some fifty years later. And upon an even closer examination, I now believe that the Camperdown

Mills tokens were struck after the Hawaiian Stage Door tokens. Shown below are close-ups of the reverses of both tokens. Note the die break that runs from the top of the F in "FOR" to the top of the R. The die break is more pronounced on the Camperdown token (below left), extending across the top of the letter O, which is not the case with the Hawaiian Stage Door token (below right).



Close-ups of the reverses of Camperdown Mills 25¢ token (left) and Hawaiian Stage Door 25¢ token (right), showing a die break along the top of the word "FOR".

I was lucky enough to purchase a group of about 15 of the Camperdown Mills tokens about 10 years ago. I have also purchased others over the years and have probably bought and sold around 25 of them all told. Each one was either in brilliant uncirculated condition or had some sort of orange patina. Those with the orange staining, however, were in uncirculated condition underneath the discoloration. I was told back in the mid-1980s that a group of these tokens were found in the mill store when it was torn down in the 1970s, but now I don't know whether to believe that story or not. Further research will hopefully reveal when the mill store was closed down and may shed more light on the date when they were struck.

## NC NEW FINDS: JENNINGS STORE TOKENS

### Lamar Bland

We have known before now that tokens were issued by the owner of Jennings Store in Jennings (Iredell County), N.C. The best illustration of one appears on the web-site tokencatalogue.com. The token reads:

**J.T. Jennings / Jennings / (ornament) / N.C. // Good  
For / 50 / -in- /merchandise – R, Al, 30mm.**

Other known denominations are the 25¢ and \$1.00 varieties, respectively 26 mm and 34 mm in size.

The new finds are in the 5¢ and 10¢ denominations, respectively 21 mm and 24 mm in size. Unfortunately they did not photograph clearly enough for publication. All five tokens (including the one on tokencatalogue.com) have identifying detail, but are quite worn. Their aluminum composition certainly contributed to this, but the volume of Jennings' business was equally a cause. The tokens passed through multiple hands.

J. Turner Jennings became owner of the store shortly after 1889. He is pictured with his wife in

these two photographs below. These are on display in today's store.



The Jennings Store Today



J.T Jennings and Wife



The size of the store indicates that its owner was an expansive entrepreneur. His business interests included apples, timber, and cotton; he ran a cannery, a sawmill, and a gin. He regularly traded and bartered with folks in the bordering counties of Alexander and Wilkes. A family member says he was known for his generosity, citing store records showing that Jennings would just “put it down” (sell on credit) if someone couldn’t pay.

Jennings ran his store for well over a half-century. After his death in the 1960’s, his daughters Patty

and Lois, retired teachers, kept it open for a few years. It is opened now, on week-ends, by David Hicks. David is a fine wood-worker who shares the family desire for the store to be both a museum and a venue for local craftsmen.

I am indebted to David for sharing memories of his family and place. When I told him about Jennings Store tokens, he said “That’s the first I’ve heard of Jennings’ tokens in forty years.” His statement confirms their rarity.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! REMEMBER THE NOVEMBER 12 CARTS/SETS MEETING IN VILLA RICA, GA

### CLASSIFIED ADS

#### WANTED

**DESPERATELY WANTED: SOUTH CAROLINA SECTIONS OF 1897 AND 1898 DUN OR BRADSTREET MERCANTILE DIRECTORIES.** Will pay \$100 each for originals or \$50 each for legible 1:1 photocopies. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127

**GOT A DUPLICATE OR A MAVERICK?** I will buy or trade. Bob King 709 Cardinal Dr, Brevard, NC 28712 828-883-8028 [tokenaddict@citcom.net](mailto:tokenaddict@citcom.net)

**CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NEEDED FOR THE SPRING FUNDRAISING AUCTION.**

#### SALE

**FOR SALE: CLIFTON MANUFACTURING CO FROM CLIFTON & CONVERSE, SC** – 5 different Pieces of Cardboard Coupon Scrip (1¢, 2¢ 5¢, 10¢ & 25¢) \$3.00 + SASE or 2 sets for \$5.00 + SASE. Steven Kawalec P.O. Box 4281 Clifton, NJ 07012 [Owlproowler@aol.com](mailto:Owlproowler@aol.com)

**CARTS Membership and Dues:** Application for membership in CARTS is invited from anyone interested in the exonomia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

**CARTSNEWS:** CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

**Advertising:** Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.